

THE MORNING NEWS

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Happy Island Girls Redux!



ORANJESTAD -- An annual ritual that is always a pleasure, is to snap a shot of the merry group of vacationers that we at THE MORNING NEWS have dubbed "The Happy Island Girls." A more jolly and pleasant little "Aruban Club" is hard to find.

These ladies hail from all parts of the U.S., but met around the beach and pool of the Renaissance Beach Suites over a decade ago. They have made it a practice to have their picture taken together each year, then Lynn Niebling of Vermont has the photo from the previous year emblazoned on a tee shirt or tank top, which they wear proudly when they reunite in Aruba.

Joining the group over the

years have been their offspring, such as Debbie Rohe, the daughter of Audrey Houser and daughter-in-law of Joanne Rohe. Karen Ballard, the daughter of Marlene Lensky has returned to Aruba for her second visit to join the girls. "I just couldn't stay home in the cold while Mom and Dad were going to Aruba!" Rounding out the 2014 gathering is Rosalie Licita, and Sue Esposito. Among them they have countless grandchildren (one has 22, from her four children, "We were a very busy bunch," she admits,) with great-grandchild number nine on the way.

Their time in Aruba together, anywhere from two weeks to a month, is very precious to them, as well as

seeing a photo in the paper of their one happy group on One Happy Island. We at THE MORNING NEWS are happy to oblige!

By Rosalie Klein

Protests ease in Caracas, US expels Venezuelan diplomats

CARACAS (AFP) - Student protesters marched toward the Cuban embassy Tuesday in yet another day of anti-government demonstrations in Caracas as the United States announced the tit-for-tat expulsions of three Venezuelan diplomats.

The US action, which answered Venezuela's expul-

SAN NICOLAS -- After many deliberations between the Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Department, Ambulance Service and other partners involved with maintaining the public safety and SAC, it was decided to maintain the old Carnival route in San Nicolas's Grand parade this coming Saturday. The new route was proposed to avoid the head of the parade meeting with the tail at Joe Laveist Sport Park. But after studying it again it seems the new route is not beneficial for the emergency services to act quickly in case of an emergency and guarantee the safety of our community.

The Police Department requests all participants and the general public to be aware of



these last changes.

The route for this coming Saturday, March 1st Carnival parade in San Nicolas: Joe Laveist Sport Park - Caya Dick Cooper - Caya Captain Rodgers - Lagoweg - Berhardstraat - Dr. Schaeppmanstraat - Weg Fontein - Pastoor Hendrikstraat - Joe Laveist Sport Park.

sions of three American diplomats a week ago, came a day after President Nicolas Maduro said his government would name a new ambassador to Washington.

The State Department said the Venezuelans would have 48 hours to leave and that Caracas needed to "show seriousness" in order for the re-

lationship between the two countries to move forward.

Separately, Panama called for an "urgent" foreign ministers' meeting of the Organization of American States to seek a solution to the Venezuelan crisis "through dialogue."

Continued on pg 6

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AVP announces a go kart rally and family day for March 18



Trevor Eman, Veronica Olarte and Giovanni Wong

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's national day, known as Anthem and Flag Day, March 18, is only a few weeks away. It will be a day filled with festive events from one corner of the island to the other, usually hosted by community centers, as well as the official observance conducted by the government.

Aruba's majority party of the present government, Arubaanse Volks Partij, or AVP, announced they will conduct a grand day of family fun at their headquarters in Oranjestad, and all are invited to attend. The celebration will offer food, drink, fun activities for children and there is no entrance fee. It begins at noon and will last until 7:00 PM.

The highlight of the day will be a go-kart rally through the streets of the surrounding area of Madiki. Trevor Eman, head of Aruba's highly successful drag racing TEAM ARUBA, which has been making a splash at racing venues across the U.S., was joined by Veronica Olarte of the Prime Minister's office to an-

nounced the event and invite go-kart enthusiasts to participate.

The cost for entry is 50 Arubian florins (\$28.) Go Karts and safety equipment must be approved by Giovanni Wong, the local representative of KNAF-KNAC, the Dutch National Auto Sport Racing Association. Very strict regulations for safety and suitability of equipment are required for anyone wishing to compete. Substantial cash awards are being offered. Interested parties can register at the AVP headquarters in Oranjestad, and at the Bushiri Go-Kart track. Bushiri Track is also offering Go-Karts for rental during the rally.

AVP is also conducting a raffle to win a new car. Tickets can be purchased through AVP parliamentarians and at their headquarters for 10 Arubian florins, (\$5.57) each.

Everyone is invited to stop by and chat with their government officials of the AVP party and share in the festive national celebration on March 18.



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New Police boat BP-2 has arrived!



Recently, the new police boat BP-2 arrived with a cargo ship at Aruba's wharf. Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers was at hand to receive the brand new boat. Members of the Marine police corps were also present. The boat will be used to control the waters surrounding Aruba. The boat is fully equipped and meet the requirements of our area. The boat will be ready to hit the waters in two weeks time. The Police boat BP-1 is still on dry dock but the missing parts have arrived and this one will also be back in action very soon together with the new boat.

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Ministry of Education teams up with University to equip school leaders



ORANJESTAD -- With funds from the European Union, the Ministry of Education and the University of Aruba have teamed up to offer a nine month course to leaders in education. The first course is to begin the 27th of March. The course dubbed "Educational Leadership for Collaboration" consists of four 3-day seminars. The seminars will be held in the months of March, June, September and December.

The themes to be discussed in the seminars are: Leadership for Collaboration, Sailing in the direction of the vision of Education, Psychology of Leadership in a Complex and Dynamic Environment in Education, Interpretation of the New Story of Leadership for Collaboration in Practice and Experience, and Supporting a Community of United Practice to create Solutions.

The goal is to create strong leadership in our educational system, and strong teams for our schools, where leaders can apply their talents and knowledge, according to the Minister of Education

Michelle Hooyer-Winklaar.
Doug Banner,

The seminars will be offered by the University of Aruba by international facilitators such as: Janet Sanders of Jen Houston Foundation; Robertson Work of New York University Graduate School of Public Service; Doug Banner, director of Flow Project and instructor at Western Washington University; and Skye Burn, executive director of Flow Project and expert in the realm of

leadership. The program falls under the category of Certified Professional Development (CPD) and is being offered to all heads and interim heads of schools, as well as to those persons interested in becoming school heads in the future, teams of schools and investigators, advisers working in the Department of Education, and those employed in the Ministry of Education and the Inspection of Education.

Registration closed yesterday and all those who applied will be informed on March 3rd if they have been accepted to follow this course.



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Xander Bogaerts foundation meets young baseballers



ORANJESTAD -- Star Major League Baseball player, Xander Bogaerts is in his Spring Training with his Boston Red Sox team at JetBlue Park at Fenway South at Fort Myers, Florida. In the meantime Xander's Dare to Dream Foundation continues on

Aruba with the goal of providing training material to individual children interested in playing the game, but who often does not have the necessary material. The foundation has appealed to all coaches and managers to send in a list of the names and

material that players need for the foundation to take care of this.

Malta Balashi has decided to team up with Xander's foundation and has launched a tremendous campaign. For the purchase of a case of Malta Balashi one can deposit the receipt with their name, address and telephone number at Brouwerij Nacional Balashi, or at the Cash & Carry on L.G. Smith Blvd. The grand prize of this campaign will be an all expenses paid trip to see the Boston Red Sox play against the Minnesota Twins at JetBlue Park at Fenway South.

The campaign closes on March 6th and the winner will be announced on March 8th. The trip will be from March 28th to March 30th.

Malta Balashi and the foundation has formed a tremendous team. Last Wednesday Xander's mother, Sandra Brown and Vanessa Hollander, Marketing manager of Malta Balashi, shared some special moments with a group of children at the Centro di Barrio Lago Heights. This field has recently been renovated and bears the name of Xander Bogaerts.

Vanessa Hollander shared with the children the meaning of a "Field of Dreams" and how each child should have dreams. They too can dream big and reach just as far as Xander.

She said that Malta Balashi wants to help our children who play baseball realize their dream.

Sandra Brown encouraged the children to have "top class" behaviour, to be disciplined, study hard and to always be on time for training.

The children received a treat of Malta Balashi and were allowed to ask any question about Xander's school, his career and what is his typical day is like.



Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas, Choices of Soups

Entrees:

- Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables
- Land & Sea Chicken Breast, Steak & Shrimps with rice and vegetables
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inconvenience this may cause
and thanks the community for
their understanding

Carnaval Schedule

WED. FEB. 26

8:00 p.m. International Concert – Window to the World

Caribbean Night

THU. FEB. 27

8:00 p.m. Parada di Luz -- San Nicolas

SAT. MARCH 1

Jouvert Morning - San Nicolas - 3 a.m.
San Nicolas Grand Carnaval Parade - 11 a.m.

SUN. MARCH - 2

Aruba's Grand Carnaval Parade - Oranjestad - 10 am

Aruba's Weather Update



WEATHER:

PARTLY CLOUDY TO MOSTLY SUNNY.
AFTER MIDNIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS THERE'S A CHANCE OF A BRIEF PASSING SHOWER.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE 31 CENTIGRADE / **MINIMUM TEMPERATURE** 26 CENTIGRADE.

SUNRISE 06:57 AM / **SUNSET** 06:49 PM.

WIND:

MODERATE TO STRONG WINDS DIRECTION EAST AVERAGE 15 KNOTS WITH MAXIMUM OF 25 KNOTS.

GENERAL SITUATION: ON THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AN AREA OF HIGH PRESSURE IS DOMINANT THIS WEEK CAUSING TRADEWINDS TO REMAIN MODERATE TO STRONG.

EAST OF THE CARIBBEAN AN UPPER LEVEL DISTURBANCE IS GENERATING SOME CLOUD CLUSTERS WHICH ARE BEING ADVECTED WESTWARD INTO THE CARIBBEAN AND CAN CAUSE SHOWERS OF SHORT DURATION MAINLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS FOR ARUBA. THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL IS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE.

MARINE CONDITIONS: WAVE DIRECTION EAST-NORTHEAST WITH WAVE HEIGHT OF 5 TO 7 FEET.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE WEEK:

SKIES PARTLY CLOUDY TO MOSTLY SUNNY. CHANCE OF A LOCAL SHOWER OF SHORT DURATION MAINLY AFTER MIDNIGHT AND IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS. TRADEWINDS REMAIN MODERATE TO STRONG. TEMPERATURE IS FLUCTUATING AROUND NORMAL.

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The Netherlands froze a seven-million-euro subsidy Defiant Ugandan president signs tough anti-gay bill

ENTEBBE (AFP) - Uganda's president called homosexuals mercenaries and prostitutes Monday as he signed off on one of the world's toughest anti-gay laws, defying warnings from Western donors.

Yoweri Museveni said he could not understand how one could "fail to be attracted to all these beautiful women and be attracted to a man", and described in lurid detail his particular revulsion to oral sex.

"That is a really serious matter. There is something really wrong with you," Museveni, a devout evangelical Christian who has been in power for almost 30 years, said of gay men.

The signing of the law came despite fierce criticism from world leaders such as US President Barack Obama and UN chief Ban-ki Moon, who urged the government "to protect all persons from violence and discrimination".

The new law holds that repeat homosexuals should be jailed for life, outlaws the promotion of homosexuality and requires people to denounce gays.

- 'Sad day' -

Obama has warned that ties between Kampala and Washington would be damaged.

White House spokesman Jay Carney called the law "abhorrent" and Obama's national security advisor Susan Rice described its initialling by Museveni as "sad day for Uganda and the world."

A spokesman for Ban said

he "hopes that the law can be revised or repealed at the earliest opportunity."

The UN chief believes that life sentences "could fuel prejudice as well as encourage harassment and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons," a statement added.

"It may also obstruct effective responses to HIV/AIDS."

The bill will provide a stiff test for foreign donors, with Museveni warning Western nations not to meddle in the central African nation's affairs, and that he was not afraid of aid being cut.

"Outsiders cannot dictate to us, this is our country," he said. "I advise friends from the West not to make this an issue, because if they make it an issue the more they will lose."

Diplomats and rights groups had pushed for Museveni -- already been under fire from key Western donors over alleged rampant corruption and for stifling opposition groups and media -- to block the legislation.

But Kampala is also a key Western ally in the region, where it is seen as a bulwark against the spread of radical Islam and has volunteered thousands of troops to battle Somali militants linked to Al-Qaeda.

"If the West does not want to work with us because of homosexuals, then we have enough space to ourselves here," Museveni added, accusing those who told Uganda

how to act were guilty of "social imperialism".

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay warned the law was "formulated so broadly that it may lead to abuse of power and accusations against anyone".

Some donors were quick to punish Kampala by freezing or redirecting aid money.

The Netherlands froze a seven-million-euro (\$9.6 million) subsidy to Uganda's legal system arguing that "if the judiciary is to enforce such laws, we do not wish to assist that process."

Denmark and Norway said they would redirect around six million euros each in government aid towards private sector initiatives, aid agencies and rights organisations.

The anti-gay bill cruised through parliament in December after its architects agreed to drop a death penalty clause.

- 'Legislation against love'

The lawmaker behind the bill, David Bahati, praised the decision to sign it.

"This is the moment the world has been waiting for," he told AFP. "We thank our president for taking such a bold move despite pressure from a section of foreign organisations. The law is for the good of Uganda, the current and the future generations."

South African Nobel peace laureate Desmond Tutu said Sunday the law recalled sinister attempts by Nazi and

apartheid regimes to "legislate against love", while Amnesty International called the bill a "horrid expansion of state-sanctioned homophobia".

"I am officially a criminal for being a lesbian, something I have no control over," Uganda gay rights activist Kasha Jacqueline also wrote on Twitter.

Homophobia is widespread in Uganda, where American-style evangelical Christianity is on the rise.

Uganda newspaper names 200 'homos' after anti-gay law signed

A Ugandan newspaper listed Tuesday 200 people it accused of being gay, a day after the president called homosexuals 'mercenaries' and signing one of the world's toughest anti-gay laws.

"Exposed!" the headline of the Red Pepper tabloid read, beneath photographs of Ugandans it said were gay, as well as reporting on lurid stories of alleged homosexual actions.

"Uganda's 200 top homos named," the daily newspaper added, which listed both those who have openly declared their sexuality as well as those who had not, including gay rights activists, priests and music stars.

In 2011, prominent Ugandan gay rights campaigner David Kato was bludgeoned to death at his home after a different newspaper splashed photos, names and addresses of gays in Uganda on its front page along with a yellow banner reading "Hang Them".



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Protests ease in Caracas, US expels Venezuelan diplomats

Cont. from pg 1

Caracas appeared to be slowly returning to normal after a night of sporadic clashes, although in some middle class neighborhoods streets were still partially blocked by barriers of rubble and garbage.

Tuesday morning, small groups of youths made their way toward the Cuban embassy, another potential flashpoint and a target of opposition ire.

"Venezuelans who don't protest, don't get out of this. Join us," read a banner set amid a small group of students.

But by midday just dozens of people had joined the march, suggesting an easing up of pressure on the eve of a national dialogue convened Wednesday by Maduro.

Maduro invited "all social, political, union and religious groups" to take part in the "national peace conference," although he provided few details.

The Venezuelan president, the late Hugo Chavez's hand-picked successor, also said he would ask the National Assembly to form a Truth Commission to look into the protests, which he claims are an attempt to "justify foreign intervention in Venezuela."

Maduro, who sees the protests as a coup d'état in the making, last week kicked out three US diplomats who he said had met with student protest leaders.

But he said his government would name a new ambassador to the United States on Tuesday.

- Lashing out at the US -

Maduro said he was naming a new ambassador because "Americans think we are killing each other" and he wants to improve dialogue with the US.

The two countries have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010, reflecting the bad blood that has prevailed be-

tween the two trade partners since Chavez came to power in 1999.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Washington had seen reports about Maduro's intention.

"But Venezuela also needs to show seriousness for us to be able to move forward. And recent actions, including expelling three of our diplomats, continue to make that difficult."

Even as he seemed to extend an olive branch, Maduro lashed out at comments by White House spokesman Jay Carney, who on Monday urged him to concentrate on dialogue with the opposition and free detained demonstrators immediately.

"Are you the Venezuelan Supreme Court? Does the United States wield judicial power in Venezuela to decide who is guilty and who should go free?" Maduro exclaimed.

He spoke on a day that saw some of the worst protests against his government since the protests began in the western state of Tachira February 4.

In the latest reported death, a student who was on a rooftop terrace fell backwards to his death on the street as police were breaking up the crowd.

With 45 people still under arrest after marches largely inspired by the country's dire shortages of basic goods and longstanding problems with inflation, the potential for escalation remained visible.

In a rare public split within Maduro's ranks, a ruling party governor called for the release of all jailed protesters.

Jose Gregorio Vielma Mora, the governor of the western state of Tachira where the student-led protests began, also criticized the government's use of the military, calling the response "a grave error" and "unacceptable excess."

Pakistan Iran pipeline not possible due to US sanctions

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Pakistan on Tuesday said that work on a pipeline to import gas from Iran cannot proceed because of sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union on Tehran.

The Iranian side of the \$7.5-billion project is almost complete, but Pakistan has run into repeated problems paying for the 780 kilometre (485 mile) section to be built on its side of the border.

Last year, Pakistan had asked Iran for \$2 billion in financing to build its side of the controversial gas pipeline.

Iran has the second largest gas reserves in the world but has been strangled by a Western embargo that has seen its crude exports halved in the past year.

US officials had earlier warned that the Iran Pakistan pipeline project would risk triggering sanctions aimed at Iran.

Pakistani petroleum minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi told AFP on Tuesday that the work on the pipeline was not possible because it falls under the sanctions imposed by the US and EU.

"The work on the Pakistan Iran gas pipeline project is not possible because of the sanctions imposed by the US and EU," Abbasi said.

"This project is affected by the sanctions imposed," he told AFP without elaborating on how the sanctions could derail the project.

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said that his country was ready to go ahead with the pipeline agreement.

"Iran is committed to this gas agreement but until Pakistan has not officially relayed its stance, we cannot react and make a decision," he was quoted as saying Tuesday by the Mehr news agency.

In late October Zanganeh had said he had "no hope" for the project, citing financial problems.

The long-delayed pipeline that would link the two neighbours was planned to ease Pakistan's chronic gas shortages.

Iran currently produces around 600 million cubic metres of gas per day, almost all of which is consumed domestically due to lack of exports. Its only foreign client is Turkey, which buys about 30 million cubic metres of gas per day.



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Germany's Merkel voices 'grave concern' over Israeli settlements

JERUSALEM (AFP) - German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed "grave concern" over Israel's continued settlement building on occupied Palestinian territory Tuesday, as she and her cabinet visited Jerusalem to meet their counterparts.

"We are looking at the settlements issue with grave concern," Merkel said at a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We hope it will not stand in the way of a two-state solution and that we can overcome it."

Since Israeli-Palestinian peace talks were launched after intense US efforts last year, Israel has advanced plans for more than 11,700 new settler homes, infuriating the Palestinians and drawing condemnation from the international community.

Settlement building is illegal under international law.

Merkel, who did not plan to meet with Palestinian officials on the visit, reiterated that Germany adhered to the

EU position on settlements, which under guidelines published in July prohibits financial dealings with settlement-based entities.

She stressed, however, that Germany "does not support boycotting" Israel proper.

European companies have begun to divest from Israeli organisations with ties to West Bank settlements, prompting accusations of hypocrisy from Israeli leaders.

"Those who call for boycotting Israel are not calling for the boycott of any other country," Netanyahu said.

"They blame only the Jewish state, and singling out Israel -- the one true democracy in the whole Middle East -- is neither moral, or correct or productive, because actually these boycotts push back peace."

The progress in talks between world powers and Iran over its controversial nuclear programme was also high on the agenda during the German leader's visit.

Woman gives birth on Manhattan sidewalk

NEW YORK (AFP) - When a New York woman went into labor, she left home to hail a cab for the hospital. But seconds later, she gave birth on a wintry Manhattan sidewalk. Starting out as a true New Yorker in a hurry, the baby girl was in such a rush to enter the world that she couldn't wait for her mother Polly McCourt to get to the hospital on Monday afternoon.

Also in New York style, it happened in front of a TV crew from Fox 5, who were en route to another story when they spotted the woman on Third Avenue and East 68th Street.

"She was like 'oh my God the baby's coming' and then I could see the baby's head coming out," one passer-by told Fox 5.

"As soon as the head came out, by the time we laid her down on the street the baby was out!" she added.

"Miracle on third avenue!" another witness told the network. McCourt and her daughter Ilia were taken to Lenox Hill Hospital, where a spokeswoman told AFP they were "doing wonderful."

The pair are expected to remain under observation until Wednesday before returning to their Upper East Side home. Ilia is the third child for McCourt and her husband, the hospital told AFP.

Possible Pinochet-era human remains found in Chile

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Chilean police have discovered human remains near a restaurant linked to a German enclave where opposition figures were tortured and killed during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

The remains were uncovered by a company digging for building materials, an official from the prosecutor's office in the Biobio region told AFP on Tuesday.

The civil police found "human bones: long bones and a piece of the skull," Bulnes police chief Claudio Ramos told a local radio, adding that more bone fragments could be seen embedded in the dirt.

He said he could not specify whether the bones came from one or more individuals, nor did he specify cause of death, though he noted the skull appeared to have a hole in it.

An investigation is underway.

The remains were found some 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of the former Colonia Dignidad, which was later renamed "Villa Baviera" -- also the name of the restaurant where these remains were found.

The Colonia Dignidad was a 13,000 hectare commune founded in southern Chile in 1961 by former Nazi Paul Schaefer.

The site was used by the Pinochet dictatorship to torture and disappear political prisoners.

An earlier investigation also found the commune mistreated the German workers who lived there and sexually abused minors.

Schaefer died in jail in 2010 at age 88 while serving a 20-year sentence for murder, sexual abuse of minors and torture.

Under Pinochet's rule between 1973 and 1990, some 38,000 people were tortured and more than 3,000 killed and disappeared. Most of their remains have never been found nor identified.

Catholic group says reformed after abuse scandals

ROME (AFP) - The Legionaries of Christ, a Catholic movement whose founder was a sexual predator, on Tuesday said they had managed to change with Vatican support, but one abuse victim told AFP the group was an "unreformable sect".

"The Legionaries have reconciled with themselves," Italian cardinal Velasio de Paolis, who was appointed by the Vatican to lead the troubled movement in 2010, said at mass following weeks of meetings near Rome.

"They have looked inside themselves with a purified vision and examined the situation to expunge the potential traces of pollution left by their founder on their identity and their laws," he said.

The congregation was created in 1941 by Marcial Maciel, who sexually abused seminarians and fathered at least three children despite his vow of chastity.

Maciel died at the age of 88



in 2008 in Mexico.

The congregation last year said it had found a total of nine of its priests guilty of sexual abuse of minors including Maciel.

When the Legionaries began their "general chapter" last month, some former members had called for the congregation to be disbanded and accused senior members of having covered for Maciel's crimes.

The powerful group was praised by late pope John Paul II because it brought numerous new vocations to the

priesthood and the Vatican was criticised for failing to heed the warnings from abuse victims.

The Legionaries have adopted new statutes following "a long conscience exam" and these have now been submitted to Pope Francis for final approval.

But one victim, Frenchman Xavier Leger, said the announcements were a "white-wash".

"They re-did the facade. This chapter is the ratification of a process that has already been orchestrated" by the Vatican, he said.

Syrians nearly largest refugee population in world: UN

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Syrians fleeing the civil war in their homeland are about to displace Afghans as the world's largest refugee population, the United Nations said Tuesday.

Briefing the General Assembly by video link, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres painted a devastating picture of the humanitarian crisis as a result of the three-year conflict.

He said nearly 2.5 million

Syrians have now registered as refugees with UNHCR in neighboring countries in the Middle East.

Guterres demanded "robust international support" for Syria's neighbors to offset the "enormous cost" that comes with welcoming hundreds, if not thousands, of Syrians every day.

The burden on the tiny population of Lebanon, for example, was the equivalent of France being inundated by

nearly 15 million refugees, Russia by 32 million and the United States by 71 million, he said.

He said the World Bank estimates that unemployment in Lebanon may double by the end of the year and that the Syrian crisis could cost it \$7.5 billion.

Guterres linked the conflict to a surge of fighting in Iraq's western Anbar province and an increase of violence in Lebanon.



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BRIEFS:

'Die Hard' director released from jail



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Die Hard" director John McTiernan was released from prison Tuesday after nearly a year behind bars in connection with a wire-tapping scandal, his wife said. Tiernan, whose films also include "The Hunt for Red October" and "The Thomas Crown Affair," was freed from prison in Yankton, South Dakota, his wife Gail told AFP, giving no further details immediately. He spent 328 days in jail, according to a "Free John McTiernan" Facebook page last updated shortly before his release. He was jailed last April. The filmmaker was sentenced to 12 months in jail and fined \$100,000 in 2010, but he stayed free until last year pending appeals in the case, which stemmed from his hiring a private investigator to illegally wire-tap a producer.

Doctor gets 10 years for sexually assaulting patients



OTTAWA (AFP) - A Canadian anesthesiologist was sentenced to 10 years in prison Tuesday for sexually assaulting 21 women while they were sedated but still aware of their surroundings. George Doodnaught was convicted in November of kissing, fondling and forcing oral sex on the patients at North York General Hospital in Toronto during a four-year period that ended in 2010. The victims were aware of what was happening but could not move, the court heard. In delivering the sentence, Ontario Superior Court Judge David McCombs called the crimes "shocking and abhorrent," according to public broadcaster CBC. During the trial, the defense had argued that the victims actually had vivid sexual dreams caused by sedatives known to play tricks with memory, and that Doodnaught could not have assaulted them undetected by others separated only by a surgical screen in the operating room. A researcher confirmed in court that the drugs can cause hallucinations. But he added it was unlikely that all of the women, who did not know each other, would come forward separately with similar accusations against the same doctor.

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Million babies a year die within 24 hours: report

LONDON (AFP) - A million newborn babies a year die within 24 hours, charity Save the Children said in a report out Tuesday which urged governments to tackle preventable deaths.

The report by the British-based organisation said 6.6 million children around the world died in 2012 before their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes.

The number has almost halved from the 13.6 million in 1990, but there remains a "deplorable problem of lack of attention to babies in their first days of life", the aid organisation said.

In its report, entitled "Ending Newborn Deaths", it said one million babies did not survive their first 24 hours of life in 2012.

It said two million babies could be saved each year if preventable newborn mortality was ended.

"Child mortality remains one of the great shames of our modern world. Every day, 18,000 children under five die, and most from preventable causes," the report said.

"Unless we urgently start to tackle deaths among newborn babies, there is a real danger that progress in reducing child deaths could stall and we will



fail in our ambition to be the generation that can end all preventable child deaths."

It said the reduction since 1990 had been achieved through immunisation, family planning, better nutrition and treatment of childhood illnesses, as well as improving economies.

Pakistan had the highest rate of first day deaths and stillbirths at 40.7 per 1,000 births, followed by Nigeria (32.7), Sierra Leone (30.8), Somalia (29.7), Guinea-Bissau (29.4) and Afghanistan (29.0).

In Pakistan, fewer than half of women had a skilled health worker present at birth.

Attempts to improve this have been dogged by "delays in the salary disbursements, 'stock-outs' of medicines, unavailable and dysfunctional

equipment, and an unhelpful referral system", the report said

India had the highest number of first day deaths and stillbirths at 598,038 per year -- a quarter of the 2.3 million lives lost.

The under-five mortality rate in India has been more than halved since 1990, from 126 per 1,000 live births to 56.1.

"(Indian) states with strong health systems and implementation mechanisms have done exceedingly well compared with others," the report said.

Save the Children, which operates in more than 120 countries, called on world leaders, philanthropists and the private sector to commit to ending preventable newborn deaths.

They said they would present their action plan to government ministers.

They want governments to issue declarations on ending preventable newborn mortality.

Save the Children wants them to ensure that by 2025, every birth is attended by trained and equipped health workers, and user fees for maternal and newborn health services are removed.

They demanded a commitment to spending at least \$60 per capita on training maternity workers.

The also urged pharmaceutical companies to increase the availability of products for the poorest new mothers.

"In many cases, small but crucial interventions can save lives in danger. Skilled care during labour could reduce the number of stillbirths during labour by 45 percent and prevent 43 percent of newborn deaths," the report said.

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Dutch scientists flap to the future with 'insect' drone



DELFTE (AFP) - Dutch scientists have developed the world's smallest autonomous flapping drone, a dragonfly-like beast with 3-D vision that could revolutionise our experience of everything from pop concerts to farming.

"This is the DelFly Explorer, the world's smallest drone with flapping wings that's able to fly around by itself and avoid obstacles," its proud developer Guido de Croon of the Delft Technical University told AFP.

Weighing just 20 grammes (less than an ounce), around the same as four sheets of printer paper, the robot dragonfly could be used in situations where much heavier quad-copters with spinning blades would be hazardous, such as flying over the audience to film a concert or sport event.

The Explorer looks like a large dragonfly or grasshopper as it flitters about the room, using two tiny low-resolution video cameras -- reproducing the 3-D vision of human eyes -- and an on-board computer to take in its surroundings and avoid crashing into things.

And like an insect, the drone which has a wingspan of 28 centimetres (11 inches), would

feel at home flying around plants.

"It can for instance also be used to fly around and detect ripe fruit in greenhouses," De Croon said, with an eye on the Netherlands' vast indoor fruit-growing business.

"Or imagine, for the first time there could be an autonomous flying fairy in a theme park," he said.

Unlike other drones that use rotor blades and can weigh hundreds of times as much, the Explorer has two wings on each side that flap rapidly to create lift.

"We got our inspiration from real small insects," De Croon said.

While smaller "flapping" drones exist, such as the RoboBee developed by students at Harvard University in the United States, they are tethered for power, control and processing, and thus far from autonomous.

The Explorer has its own small lithium polymer battery that allows it to fly for around nine minutes, while it "sees" with its onboard processor and a specially-developed algorithm to make instant decisions.

It has wireless analog video, gyroscopes and a barometer to calculate its height.

Different algorithms would allow it to perform different tasks, and because it is autonomous it could be sent into enclosed spaces such as concrete buildings or mine shafts, where radio control would be impossible, to search for casualties or hazards.

"The DelFly knows precisely where obstacles are located," said De Croon as the aircraft, built from composite materials including carbon fibre, fluttered towards a wall during a demonstration flight before veering elegantly away in search of another route.

The idea of building a flapping-winged drone began around nine years ago when a group of students at Delft Technical University's prestigious aerospace faculty first designed the DelFly I.

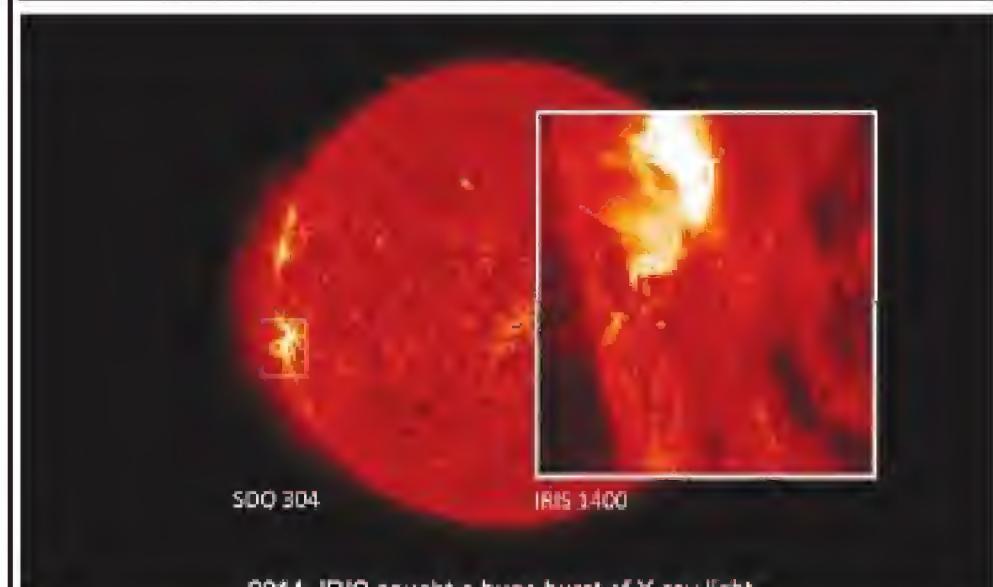
Over the next few years, research continued and the machine became smaller and smaller, said Sjoerd Tijmons, 28, who helped write the algorithm for the latest DelFly Explorer's "brain".

An earlier incarnation, the DelFly Micro with a wingspan of 10 centimetres, was in 2008 declared the "smallest camera equipped aircraft in the world" by the Guinness Book of Records.

But De Croon admits that humans are not quite able to produce swarms of autonomous robotic insects the size of bees or flies, mainly because of restrictions on battery life.

"Still there are some major challenges... and if I have to put a number on it, I think we are still a few decades away," he laughed.

Giant Solar Flare Released by the Sun



2014, IRIS caught a huge burst of X-ray light,

- Two massive solar flares have been recorded by NASA over the past two months, and we get to see images of them. NASA's Interface Region Imaging Spectrograph (IRIS) has been monitoring the sun for activity since the summer, focusing on the chromosphere -- a layer of the sun's atmosphere that regulates the flow of energy and material from the solar surface into space. When energy passes through the chromosphere it warms the chromosphere, the upper atmospheric layer, and can cause solar flare-ups like the one below. The spectrograph separates light into different wavelengths which correspond to materials at different density, temperatures, and velocities. By examining the footage, scientists can learn more about how materials flow at different temperatures and how flares work more generally. NASA reports that researchers had to be strategic in directing IRIS to focus on the right portion of the solar surface. According to the Science Recorder, scientists know that solar flares are made up of electrons, ions, protons and other high-energy particles, but not much else: That flare was witnessed on January 28, but another x-class solar flare went off yesterday. Spaceweather.com reports that "this is the most intense flare of 2014 so far, and one of the most intense of the current solar cycle." As referenced earlier, the solar flare released this morning does not pose a threat to Earth.

Radioactive ocean water from Fukushima reaches Vancouver area



A NOVA SCOTIA research scientist has told a scientific conference that isotopes for cesium-134 and cesium-137 have been identified west of Vancouver. John Smith, who is with the Canadian government's Bedford Institute of Oceanography, told the American Geophysical Union meeting in Honolulu that levels are far lower than the Canadian limit for drinking water, according to a story on LiveScience.com. Smith explained that cesium-134 has a half-life of two years, making it an "unequivocal" indication of ocean contamination from the Fukushima nuclear disaster, which occurred after an earthquake on March 11, 2011 in northeastern Japan. Cesium-137 has a half-life of 30 years. Models suggest that concentrations of radioactive water along the West Coast will peak in 2016.

US fines Asiana \$500,000 over San Francisco crash

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - US aviation authorities have fined South Korea's Asiana Airlines \$500,000 over last year's deadly San Francisco air crash for failing to properly help families of victims, officials said Tuesday.

Three passengers died when Asiana Airlines Flight 214 clipped a seawall with its landing gear, skidded off the runway and burst into flames at the end of an otherwise routine flight from Seoul to San Francisco on July 6.

Asiana "violated federal law last July by failing to adhere to the assurances in its family-assistance plan following the crash," the US Department of Transportation said.

The fine is the first imposed by the DoT under a 1997 law which requires foreign airlines to keep to a "family-assistance plan" in the event of aircraft accidents resulting in a major loss of life, it said.

The DoT said Asiana took two days to send enough trained staff and failed to widely publicize a helpline

telephone number for families, some of whom were not contacted for up to five days after the crash.

One of the three victims had been pulled alive from the plane and placed near one wing. But the Chinese teenager was later run over and killed by a fire truck which did not spot her lying under a layer of fire retardant foam.

US prosecutors decided in October not to bring charges against the firefighter driving the truck.

Another 182 passengers and crew aboard the Boeing 777 were injured, in the first fatal commercial airline crash in the United States since 2009.

The DoT said that Asiana initially lacked adequate staff to communicate in the languages spoken by the flight's passengers.

On the telephone number response, it said.

A final US report on the reasons for the crash is expected to be ready by the first anniversary of the disaster.

US top court broaches subprime crises in property value case

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Supreme Court Tuesday heard arguments born out of the subprime mortgage crisis concerning how to estimate a property's value when its worth has plunged.

Benjamin Robers borrowed a total of \$451,000 he never intended to pay back in a mortgage fraud scam in the midwestern state of Wisconsin just before the housing market collapsed.

Robers -- who now must

pay the difference between the mortgage price and value of the properties, which were eventually taken back by the bank -- argues the properties should be valued at their foreclosure price in 2006.

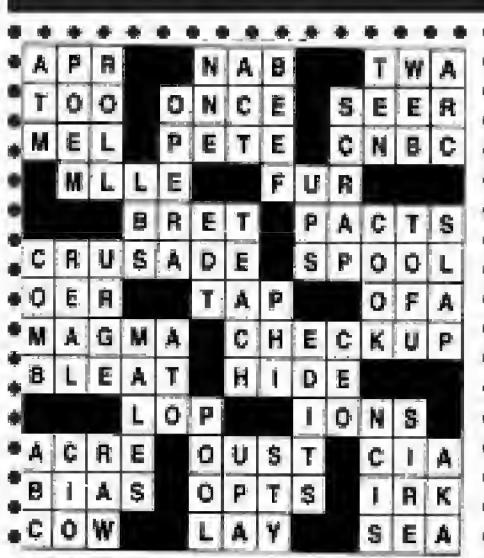
The properties were foreclosed at a value of \$330,000 when they were taken over by the bank, but two years later during the heart of the financial crisis sold for only \$282,000.

A brief filed before the hearing by the United States Department of Justice argued that the amount of restitution due to the lender should be offset by "the amount of money the lender ultimately obtains by reselling the house."

Justice Samuel Alito compared the situation to a truck full of tomatoes that are sold once they have gone bad and lost most of their value.

The case could open the door to other suits linked to the subprime mortgage crisis, in which millions of small investors faced ruin. The decision is expected before June.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Morgan Stanley set to pay \$275 mn to settle SEC probe

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US banking giant Morgan Stanley on Tuesday said it would pay \$275 million to settle a Securities and Exchange Commission probe of mortgage-backed securities deals.

In a filing, Morgan Stanley noted that it had reached a preliminary agreement with the SEC in late January to resolve the investigation into the bank's subprime mortgage-backed securities transactions in 2007.

Under the terms of the agreement, Morgan Stanley would be charged with violations of the Securities Act.

"The Company would pay disgorgement and penalties in an amount of \$275 million and would neither admit nor deny the SEC's findings," the bank said.

"The SEC has not yet presented the proposed settlement to the Commission and no assurance can be given that it will be accepted."

Earlier in the month Mor-

gan Stanley reported it would pay \$1.25 billion to the US Federal Housing Finance Agency to settle charges that it misled investors on the sale of mortgage-backed securities ahead of the housing bust.

The settlement would resolve a September 2011 suit in which the FHFA, the conservator of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, alleged that Morgan Stanley made "untrue statements and material omissions" in the sale of about \$11 billion in worth of mortgage-backed securities.

Bitcoin world in turmoil after exchange goes dark

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Bitcoin community was thrown into turmoil Tuesday after the disappearance of what had been its biggest exchange, shaking confidence in the fast-growing virtual currency.

Critics said the failure of the Tokyo-based MtGox exchange and the apparent loss of some \$300 million in Bitcoins highlighted flaws in the cryptocurrency, while others said it was merely a bump in the road.

The value of a Bitcoin tumbled more than \$100 in early trades but then recovered to fetch \$517 at 2200 GMT, according to the Winkdex Bitcoin index. The moves highlighted the extreme volatility of the currency, which surged over \$1,100 last year and then fell sharply.

The closing of MtGox "is a significant setback for the Bitcoin community," said Mark

Williams, a Boston University expert on risk management and financial markets who has long warned about the dangers of Bitcoin.

"This exposes its structural flaws," Williams told AFP. "It shows self-regulation doesn't work. When there is big money on the table, there is an incentive to cheat and consumers are 100 percent exposed."

Henry Farrell, a George Washington University political economist, said that, as with other currencies, Bitcoin needs to establish confidence.

"If people start to panic and think this is a sign of general problems in the Bitcoin economy, it becomes a bit like the 2009 financial crisis," he said.

Farrell said Bitcoin is now in a "fragile situation" and needs to get through the current crisis to survive. But he does not see Bitcoin expand-

ing beyond being a "hobby currency."

Peter Leeds, publisher of an investment newsletter, said the MtGox collapse is likely to discourage investments and prompt more efforts to regulate Bitcoin.

US Senator Tom Carper, who heads a homeland security panel, said the MtGox collapse underscores the need for regulation.

But defenders of Bitcoin expressed confidence in the virtual currency, which is based on a computer algorithm designed by one or more anonymous people in 2009.

The heads of the major operating Bitcoin exchanges issued a joint statement saying the collapse of MtGox was a "tragic violation of the trust of users" that "does not reflect the resilience or value of Bitcoin and the digital currency industry."

Improved growth forecast boosts euro vs dollar

NEW YORK (AFP) - The euro edged higher against the dollar Tuesday helped by upward revisions to growth forecasts for the European Union.

But caution prevailed in the foreign exchange markets, with the main currencies remaining within recent trading bands.

At 2200 GMT the euro was at \$1.3744, up from \$1.3735 late Monday.

The yen picked up ground against them both: the dollar slipped to 102.22 yen from 102.50 yen, while the euro dropped to 140.49 yen from 140.78.

The European Commission said Tuesday that the 18-nation

eurozone was expected to grow 1.2 percent this year and 1.8 percent in 2015, up from November's estimates for 1.1 percent and 1.7 percent.

Similarly, the full 28-member EU's economy will expand 1.5 percent this year and 2.0 percent in 2015, also both revised up by 0.1 percentage point.

That gave the euro a small spurt, and helped push US dollar bond yields down after they traded higher for the past week.

Markets remain cautious as they await more information on the pace of the US and Japanese economies.

On Thursday Federal Re-

serve Chair Janet Yellen will testify to the Senate Banking Committee on the economy and Fed policy.

Yellen's testimony to the House of Representatives counterpart two weeks ago was hardly revealing, except to show that the Fed remains fairly confident in its forecasts for growth this year despite the possibly weather-related sluggish activity of December and January.

The British pound pushed higher, to \$1.6680 from \$1.6656, while the dollar slipped against the Swiss franc, to 0.8866 franc from 0.8890.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they feel secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the ac-



tion, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Maynn and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba con-

tributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area also to house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas, 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what



first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home."

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Ma-

machi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all encased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe prepara-



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

tion of banana hassa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining. telf. 586-0606.

Football: Olympiakos bring listless United to their knees

PIRAEUS (AFP) - Manchester United were shunted towards an unscheduled exit in the Champions League after crashing to a shock 2-0 defeat at Olympiakos in their last 16 first-leg match on Tuesday.

Goals from Alejandro Dominguez and Arsenal loanee Joel Campbell gave Olympiakos victory at an ecstatic Karaiskakis Stadium, to leave the Greek champions on the brink of the last eight for the first time since 1999.

It was the first time United had ever lost to a Greek team, but their error-prone display was fully in keeping with a season in which the self-belief of the Alex Ferguson era has thoroughly abandoned them.

Previously unbeaten in the group phase, David Moyes's side conceded defeat with a whimper on a chastening night in the Athenian port of Piraeus, failing to muster a single shot on target.

Eleven points off fourth-place Liverpool in the Premier League, their hopes of playing in next season's Champions League were already fading, and they now face a fight to stay alive in this season's competition in the return leg on March 19.

Olympiakos coach Michel had wondered in his pre-match



press conference whether United's players would feel "burdened" by expectation, and in the opening stages his

side were happy to let the visitors make problems for themselves.

Tennis: Djokovic begins his quest for titles again

DUBAI (AFP) - Novak Djokovic returned to his quest for titles after one of the biggest disappointments of his career with a hard-hitting, straight sets success before a packed stadium at the Dubai Open.

The 6-3, 6-3 victory over Denis Istomin, a talented world number 53 from Uzbekistan, was ideal competitive rehabilitation for the seven-time former Grand Slam winner after the loss of his Australian Open title to Stanislas Wawrinka in the semi-finals at Melbourne.

The ambience was lively enough to summon adrenaline, the opposition capable enough to create good rallies, and the outcome encouraging enough for Djokovic to feel he can win his fifth title here.

If he does, he will equal the record of Roger Federer, whom he should meet in Friday's semi-finals.

But, even more important for Djokovic is to feel that the "food for the soul" he says he took from childhood haunts during a five-week break is now feeding his self-belief.

He projected more than 20 unforced errors, but often served well, too, despite missing some chances to finish rallies, and yet he always won the points and games that really mattered in a colourfully patchwork performance.

"My game isn't where I want it to be," Djokovic admitted. "But I am still happy with this start."

"It's just the match situation - it's quite different from the practice court. You have thou-

sands of people watching you and it can be mentally tough.

Djokovic next plays Roberto Bautista Agut, the world number 51 from Spain, while Federer will take on Radek Stepanek, the former top ten player from the Czech republic who has won deciding matches in Davis Cup finals twice.

The tournament's second seed however did not survive. Juan Martin Del Potro, the former US Open champion who became the ATP Tour's comeback player of the year after recovering from a career-threatening wrist injury, was struck down by a similar ailment.

The courageous and usually hard-hitting Argentine lasted little more than an hour and only one set in the Dubai Open, before requiring lengthy treatment on his left wrist after which he called it quits against Somdev Devvarman, a wild card entry from India.

Tomas Berdych, the third-seeded Czech who reached the final last year, may be one of those who benefits from Del Potro's misfortune as they were seeded to meet in Friday's semi-finals.

Berdych scored his 13th win in 14 matches, a 6-3, 6-4 success against Marius Copil, a Romanian qualifier.

"Always you can make from basically any kind of situation that you can put pressure on yourself, but that's probably not the best idea to do," said Berdych, when asked how much he focused on maintaining the streak.

BRIEFS:

Klitschko says will run for Ukraine presidency



KIEV (AFP) - Heavyweight boxing world champion Vitali Klitschko on Tuesday announced that he will run for Ukraine's presidency in elections scheduled for May 25. "I will be on the ballot for the post of president of Ukraine," the protest leader told journalists in parliament.

Pistorius trial can be partly televised



PRETORIA (AFP) - A South African judge ruled Tuesday that most of Oscar Pistorius's trial for the 2013 murder of his girlfriend can be broadcast live, but not the Paralympian's own testimony. Judge Dunstan Mlambo said cameras would be allowed "to obtain a video and audio recording" of opening arguments, the evidence of state witnesses, closing arguments and the verdict and sentencing. But cameras will not be allowed to film Pistorius, witnesses for the defence, or anyone else who objects to appearing on camera, he added. A live audio broadcast will be allowed throughout the trial, which is due to open on Monday.

Rose withdraws from PGA event to rest shoulder



PALM BEACH GARDENS (AFP) - World number six Justin Rose of Britain has withdrawn from this week's \$6 million US PGA Tour Honda Classic to rest a nagging right shoulder injury, the tour announced Tuesday. The 33-year-old reigning US Open champion has tendinitis in his right shoulder and does not want to risk a setback in rehabilitation by playing four weeks in a row. The Englishman has played the past two weeks and will compete in next week's \$9 million World Golf Championships (WGC) event at Doral. Rose will defend the US Open crown he won last year at Merion in June at Pinehurst with the year's first major championship, the Masters, looming before that in April at Augusta National.

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weekends

Boxing: Mayweather rejects Khan for Maidana in May

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Unbeaten welterweight world champion Floyd Mayweather celebrated his 37th birthday on Monday by announcing he'll put his 45-0 record on the line on May 3 against Marcos Maidana.

The move comes after weeks of speculation as to whether Mayweather would fill his May fight date with Argentina's Maidana or England's Amir Khan.

The brash American even ran an internet poll in which fans voted for the Khan matchup, but World Boxing Council welterweight champion Mayweather instead will take on World Boxing Association champ Maidana in a unification bout.

"Marcos Maidana's last performance immediately brought

him to my attention," Mayweather said of Maidana's comprehensive defeat of the previously unbeaten Adrien Broner on December 14.

The 30-year-old Maidana dominated Broner from the opening bell and registered two knockdowns against the three-time world champion.

At 45-0 with 26 knockouts, Mayweather is approaching the 46-0 career mark of retired Welsh star Joe Calzaghe and the iconic 49-0 mark of heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano.

Mayweather beat Saul

"Canelo" Alvarez last September in his most recent bout for the WBA and World Boxing Council light middleweight titles. The May 3 bout will be the third in his lucrative six-fight deal with Showtime.

"I am extremely happy to be facing Floyd Mayweather because it will give me the opportunity to show the world that I am the best welterweight in the division," Maidana said. "I just handed a great defensive fighter his first loss and I plan to do the same to Mayweather."

FBI suspected iconic 1964 Ali-Liston fight was rigged by mob



Fifty years ago today, Muhammad Ali "shocked the world" and beat one of the most fearsome fighters ever to put on a pair of boxing gloves, heavyweight champion Sonny Liston. Maybe it wasn't such a shock, as 4-decade-old documents released to The Washington Times under the Freedom of Information Act show the FBI suspected the fight may have been fixed by a Las Vegas figure tied to organized crime and to Liston. The documents show no evidence that Ali was in on the scheme or even knew about it. And nothing suggests the bureau ever fully corroborated the suspicions it investigated. The FBI documents released to The Times are the most detailed information to date about suspicions of a fix in the first Clay-Liston fight, though they are likely to only continue the debate and not resolve it. Ali did not respond to repeated requests for comment from The Times.

NBA: LeBron expects to make masked return Thursday



MIAMI (AFP) - Miami Heat superstar LeBron James expects to return to the lineup Thursday from a broken nose but wearing a protective face mask.

"I'm definitely wearing a mask if I play Thursday," James said after taking part in non-contact portions of the team's workout Tuesday.

James said that his nose has felt less painful every day since it was broken last Thursday by Oklahoma City big man Serge Ibaka as James drove to the basket on his way to a slam dunk in a road victory over the Thunder.

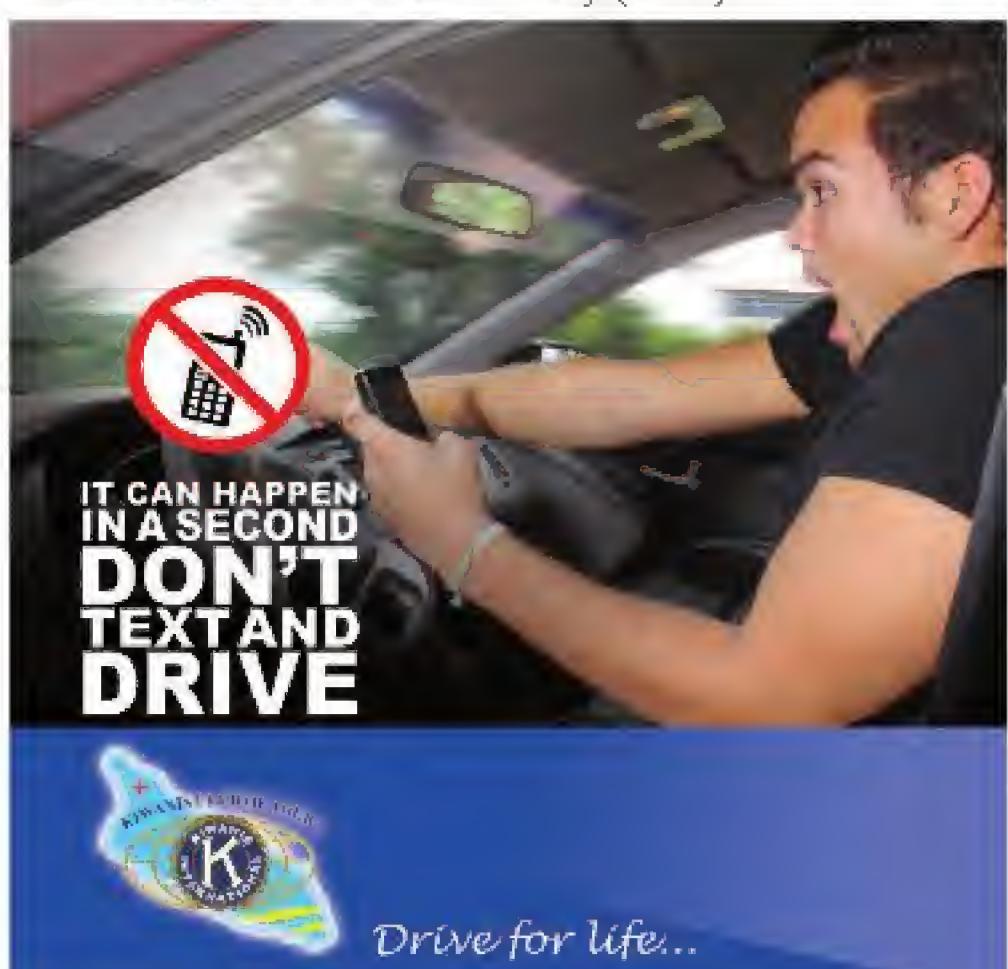
James leads the two-time

defending NBA champion Heat with 26.9 points, 7.1 rebounds and 6.5 assists a game this season.

The four-time NBA Most Valuable Player also said he plans to test the face mask in Wednesday workouts before using it when the New York Knicks visit Miami on Thursday.

James sat out last Sunday's 93-79 Miami home victory over Chicago as the Heat win streak grew to five games.

At 40-14, the Heat own the third-best record in the NBA behind overall pace-setter Indiana (42-13) and Western Conference leader Oklahoma City (43-14).



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Here are the nominees for Athlete of the year!

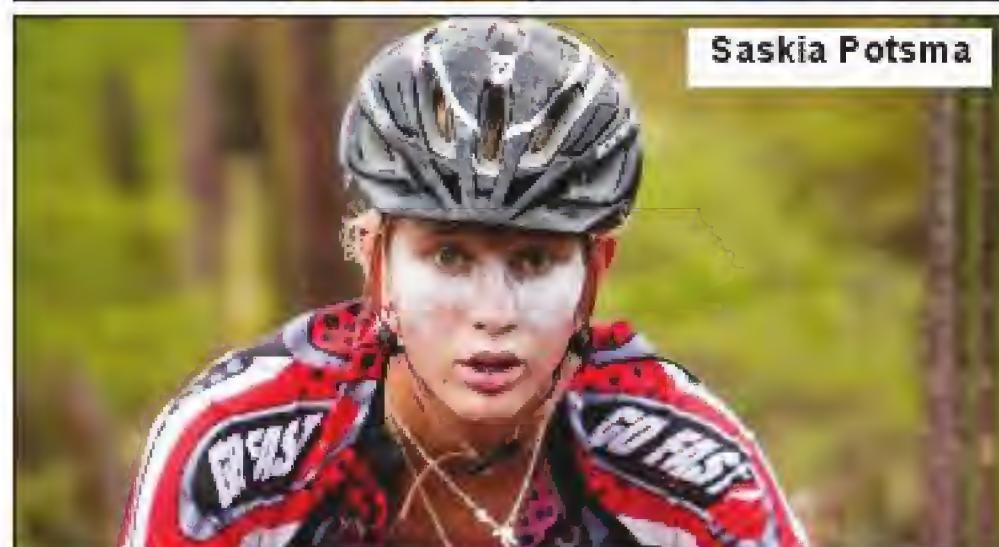
ORANJESTAD - On March 21st, the gala event for our athletes is scheduled to take place...the Premio Excelencia den Deporte! During the gala evening they will present special recognition to those athletes who excelled in their sport during 2013. The culminating point of the entire evening will be the presentation of the maximum galardon to the Athlete of the Year.

This year there are 9 athletes nominated for Athlete of the Year 2013. They will also give recognition to the sports leaders who worked diligently throughout the entire year for the welfare of our athletes and their sport.

Here is the list of the nominees in the categories for Athlete of the Year and Leader of the Year, for the Premio Excelencia den Deporte 2013:

Leader of the year 2013

- ATA - Nicolaas Robert
- KENDO - Erun Jung Kim
- Softbol Little League - Carmelita Haynes
- ARTBO-Teofilo Rodriguez
- AVA - Octavio O. Woodley
- ARUBOX - Marco Duperoy
- Ajedrez - Drs. Raymundo



Dijkhoff

Athlete of the year (minimum 18 years)

- AAB-Quincy Yemail Brell
- AZB/Synchro-Anouk Eman
- AZB/Landamento - Allyson Ponson
- AAWA - Jennifer Piter

-ATA - Saskia Postma

- KENDO - Alejandro Castillo
- ALTB - Marieke Buuts
- ARBAS - Kamilah Dammers
- Ajedrez - Jose Pesqueira

Pabien guys!

Teofilo Rodriguez